

AA.M1E2 BALTIC PHOTIC MIXED SUBSTRATE DOMINATED BY ZEBRA MUSSEL (*DREISSENA POLYMORPHA*)

AUTHOR

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TEXTUAL DESCRIPTION

Baltic photic bottoms with 10- 90 % coverage of hard (rock/boulders/stone) and 10-90 % soft substrata (e.g. muddy/coarse sediment/sand). Epibenthic bivalves cover at least 10%of the seabed and more than other perennial attached erect groups. Out of the epibenthic bivalves, Zebra mussel constitutes at least 50 % of the biomass.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

Substrate is soft or crystalline rock, boulders or stones mixed with mobile substrates such as sand or coarse substrate. Depth is typically from 2 to 10 meters. Appears in sheltered to moderately exposed areas. Salinity must be less than 5 psu.

CHARACTERISTIC SPECIES

Dreissena polymorpha

QUALITY DESCRIPTORS

Amount of sediment. Diversity, abundance and biomass of fauna

GEOGRAPHIC RANGE

Estonian west coast and eastern Gulf of Finland

CORRESPONDENCE WITH OTHER CLASSIFICATION SYSTEMS

HELCOM 1998:

2.8 Mixed sediment bottoms

2.8.2 Sublittoral photic zone

2.8.2.1 With little or no macrophyte vegetation

EUNIS 2012:

A5 Sublittoral sediment

A5.4 : Sublittoral mixed sediments

A5.41 : Sublittoral mixed sediment in low or reduced salinity

A5.411 : Baltic level mixed sediment bottoms of the infralittoral photic zone with little or no macrophyte vegetation

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